REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1, 3-5 and 8-14 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 15-16 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 1, 3, 5, 9, and 14 are being amended.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

The First 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-13, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sakuraba (U.S. Pat. 5,850,224), Kurihara (U.S. Pat. 6,005,572), and Recker et al (U.S. Pat. 5,657,478). As mentioned above, claims 15-16 are being canceled, and therefore, the rejections of claims 15-16 are moot. The rejections of claims 1, 3-5, and 8-13 are respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended recites that a display control device comprises: an image data generating unit for generating image data for a plurality of display layers according to a series of command; an image data storage unit for storing generated image data respectively in storage areas of a memory unit, the storage areas corresponding to the display layers; and a display processing unit for reading image data of the plurality of display layers stored in the memory unit to superimpose the image data, converting the image data into display output signals, and setting a display switching information in accordance with enable information included in a first command in the series of commands, wherein the display switching information indicates whether or not the storage area from which the image data is read is

switched, wherein the display processing unit reads the image data of one or more display layers selected by the display switching information, the one or more display layers to be superimposed on a display screen of a display device, in response to the display control device receiving a display vertical synchronous signal of the display device, and wherein the first command is for indicating termination of generation of image data for one display layer.

A display control device as recited in claim 1 generates image data for one or more display layers in response to the series of commands. The commands include a first command including enable information for instructing which one or more display layers is displayed on a display screen of the display device. The display processing unit in the display control device performs processing for superimposing the one or more display layers on a display screen in accordance with the enable information included in the first command. The first command is for indicating termination of generation of image data for one display layer.

In contrast, Sakuraba shows a three dimensional graphics drawing apparatus having a plurality of frame buffers. The apparatus can superimpose image data in the plural frame buffers in accordance with the depth information to display on the display screen. However, Sakuraba does not show or suggest that a display unit selects the frame buffers in accordance with enable information included in a command. Even more, Sakuraba does not show or suggest that the command including the enable information is for indicating termination of generation of image data for one display layer.

Kurihara shows the display unit having a plurality of frame buffers. The display unit can superimpose multi display planes and display them on a display screen. The display unit has a control register for indicating which one or more display layers is to be displayed on the display screen. However, Kurihara does not show or suggest that the display unit selects the display layers in accordance with enable information included in a command in the series of commands. Even more, Kurihara does not show or suggest that the command including the enable information is for indicating termination of generation of image data for one display layer.

Recker shows a display system having a host, a co-processor, frame buffers, a display controller, and a display. In Rocker, the host sends commands to the coprocessor and that one or more commands are for instructing the display to switch from one frame buffer to another. However, Recker does not show or suggest that a command includes enable information for instructing which one or more display layers is to be displayed on the display screen of the display, and the display controller or the co-processor can switch the image data

in accordance with the enable information for superimposing to display on the display screen. Even more, Recker does not show or suggest that the command including the enable information is for indicating termination of generation of image data for one display layer.

Claim 9

Claim 9 has the substantially same features as those of claim 1, at least with respect to the first command being for indicating termination of generation of image data for one display layer. As such, the arguments set forth above are equally applicable here. Claim 1 being allowable, claim 9 must also be allowable.

Claims 3-5, 8, 10-13

As to dependent claims 3-5, 8, and 10-13, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 9 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 3-5, 8, and 10-13 must also be allowable.

The Second 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tsunoda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,757,455) in view of Sakuraba, Kurihara, and Recker. These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 14 has the substantially same features as those of claim 1, at least with respect to a display processing circuit for reading image data of the plurality of display layers stored in the memory unit to superimpose the image data, and converting the image data into display output signals, and setting a display switching information in accordance with enable information included in a first command in the series of commands and the first command being for indicating termination of generation of image data for one display layer. As such, the arguments set forth above with respect to Sakuraba, Kurihara, and Recker are equally applicable here.

The reference of Tsunoda merely shows that a navigation system for a vehicle generates a guide display in the form of a diagrammatic roadmap and in the form of a textual road-name display (Abstract). Tsunoda fails to provide any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that makes up for the deficiencies in Sakuraba. Kurihara, and Recker. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art could not and would not

look to the prior art of record to show or suggest all the features as recited in claim 14. Accordingly, claim 14 is not obvious in view of all the prior art cited.

Conclusion

In light of the Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

September 17, 2007
SPF/JCM/YOM